Financial irregularities in Victoria Memorial

352. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government had received serious complaints, including financial irregularities, against a section of Officers at the apex level of management of the prestigious Victoria Memorial in Kolkata;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been entrusted with investigation into the complaints;

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the current status of its investigation;

(e) whether the officers at the Victoria Memorial, whose conducts are the subject of CBI probe, have been removed from their posts;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) to (g) Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata is an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Culture established under an Act of Parliament. The responsibility for management and administration of the Memorial rest with its Board of Trustees. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) is verifying information relating to some of the issues raised in the representations by employees of the Victoria Memorial. Action, if any against the officers found guilty can only be initiated on completion of the said enquiries. In addition, to look into the issues involved in the reports in print media and communications received from employees organization, the Board of Trustees have set up a three member Committee.

Theft of manuscripts and letter from Kolkata National Library

353. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased

to state:

(a) whether National treasure of rare books manuscripts and letters associated with Rabindranath Tagore, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, Sarat Chandra Chatterjee and Sarojini Naidu have been stolen from Kolkata's National Library;

(b) whether the register containing records of the library's rare books division is also untraceable;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has written to the Ministry to take immediate action against the Director of the Library who failed to provide details of the records available there and also financial irregularities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?